

14. Frank Hastings Hamilton

A.B. 1830 Union

Attended Fairfield, session 1831-32 from Auburn.

M.D. 1835 Univ. of Pennsylvania

Professor at Fairfield, Geneva, Buffalo, Long Island, & Bellevue.

I have full data. *from F.C. Waite of Western Reserve*

*UCSLat1830hamilton-f-0001*

FRANK H. HAMILTON '30

Vermont Medical College at Woodstock--Principles and Practice  
of Surgery, by Frank H. Hamilton, M. D.

From: Albany Argus  
Feb. 23, 1840  
Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 7

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putation through the joints give him a title to endearing fame. Besides originating several new and radical operations, he was the first to work from the palm of the hand, a method now widely adopted. He was rated one of the foremost American authorities on military surgery and gun-shot wounds, and on the assassination of Pres. Garfield was called in consultation, remaining connected with the case until the close. Dr. Hamilton was a constant and lucid writer on surgical topics. His larger works are: "A Practical Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations" (1860, 5th ed. 1880); "A Treatise on Military Surgery and Hygiene" (1865); "Contributions Relating to the Surgery of ~~the~~ War" (1870); "The Principles and Practice of Surgery" (1872, 2d ed. 1879); a series of papers on "Prognosis in Fractures" (1855-56-57); one on "The Effect of a Sudden Loss of Consciousness on the Memory of Preceding Events" (1876), and numerous other articles, addresses and lectures. He was twice married; first, in 1834, to Mary Virginia McMurran, of Virginia; second, to Mary, daughter of Judge Oliver Hart, of Oswego, N. Y. His only daughter, Mary, is the wife of Daniel N. Davis, a business man of New York. Dr. Hamilton died in New York city, Aug. 11, 1886.

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Shortly after graduation he studied medicine at Auburn, N. Y., and at Fairfield College and took his degree at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1839 he took the professorship of Surgery at the college in Fairfield, and in the succeeding year that of Surgery in the Geneva Medical College. In 1844 he made a tour of Europe and published accounts of his travels. Upon his return he settled in Buffalo. Upon the organization of the Buffalo Medical College in 1846 he was made professor of Surgery; in 1858, he accepted a professorship in the Long Island College Hospital and removed to Brooklyn. In 1861, he

became professor of Military Surgery, Fractures and Dislocations and professor of Clinical Surgery in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. In 1868 he was made professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery with operations, and continued in this capacity until 1875, when he resigned.

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Although not a robust man, Dr. Hamilton was an indefatigable worker and was the author of many valuable books on Surgery; a "Treatise on Strabismus," printed in 1844; in 1860 his "Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations," which reached its seventh edition, containing 1,001 pages, in 1884. It was translated into French and German. His "General Treatise on Military Surgery," is said to be the only considerable book on Military Surgery written in this country. The "Surgical Memoirs of the War of the Rebellion," in two volumes, was edited by Dr. Hamilton and published in 1871 under the direction of the United States Sanitary Commission. The first edition of "The Principles and Practice of Surgery" was published in 1872. Other works from his pen are: "Monograph on Fractures of the Patella," "Health Aphorisms" and "Medical Ethics." In addition to these he prepared a number of papers on surgery and was the inventor of twenty-seven surgical instruments, most of which are now in common use.

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## CLASS OF 1830

### FRANK HASTINGS HAMILTON

Who joined the Medical Society of the County of Erie in 1845, came to Buffalo from Geneva where he had been teaching anatomy and surgery for several years. In 1846 he was elected professor of surgery in Buffalo Medical College which chair he held until 1860. He was censor of the society from 1851 to 1856 inclusive; was elected vice-president in 1856, and president in 1857. In 1851 he became a permanent member of the State Society, and was elected president of the same in 1856. During the fifteen years of his residence at Buffalo, Dr. Hamilton was a regular contributor to the Buffalo Medical Journal, in which he published his early fracture tables and papers relating to deformities after fractures, that laid the foundation for his future classic treatise on fractures and dislocations. In 1860 Dr. Hamilton removed to New York becoming professor of surgery at Long Island College Hospital, and was chosen to the same chair at Bellevue Hospital Medical College upon its organization in 1861.

Dr. Hamilton died August 11, 1886 at the age of 73. Perhaps no man of his time contributed more to maintain the esprit de corps of the profession of medicine than did this educated, accomplished and upright man.

Our County and Its People  
Truman C. White  
Boston History Co.  
1898.

Vol. 1. p. 731



1830 FRANK HASTINGS HAMILTON, ΦBK, M.D., LL.D.

Major and Surgeon 31st N. Y. Vols., May 25, 1861.

Surgeon U. S. V., Aug. 3, 1861.

Medical Director 4th Army Corps in 1862 and Lieut.

Colonel and Medical Inspector, Feb. 9, 1863.

Resigned, August 29, 1863.

*Civil War Record*

'30

Frank H. Hamilton, M.D., LL.D., died at New York city, Aug. 11, 1886. He served through the war as surgeon and medical director, and in '62 was surgeon in Central Park General Hospital in New York city; he was also one of the attending physicians during President Garfield's illness.

Oct. 1886. C.

\* Frank Hastings Hamilton.

1848

*Princ. and Pract. Surg.* Union '30, M.D. Univ. Pa. '35, LL.D. Union '69. Prof. Auburn Med. Sch. '35, Western Coll. Phys. and Surg. '39, Buffalo '46, and Dean, L. I. Coll. Med. '59. Surg. in Chief of Hosp.; Prof. Milit. Surg. and Brigade Surg. and Lt. Col. U. S. A. '61-3; Pres. N. Y. Med. Soc. Author in Med. and Surg. B. Wilmington, Vt., Sept. 10, 1813, d. New York, Aug. 11, '86.

*Hobart Coll. - Faculty of Medicine. 1840-48*

*Hobart*

*Cat.*

*p. 22.*

FRANCIS HAMILTON, 1830, of Auburn, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.  
Philomathean /catalogue 1830 (Died: 1886)



Frank Hastings Hamilton, surgeon, was born at Wilmington, Vt., Sept. 13, 1813. He was graduated at Union College in 1830, and entering on medical study in the office of Dr. John G. Morgan and at the Western College of Physicians and Surgeons, Fairfield, N. Y., was licensed to practice by the Cayuga County Medical Society in 1833. The degree of M.D. was conferred on him by the University of Pennsylvania in 1835, and thereafter, until 1838, he continued practice at Auburn, N. Y., also giving courses of lectures in anatomy and surgery. In 1839 he was appointed professor of surgery at the Western College of Physicians and Surgeons, and in 1840 at the Medical College of Geneva, N. Y. He located in practice in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1844, becoming professor of surgery in Buffalo Medical College in 1846; subsequently dean of the faculty and surgeon to the Charity Hospital. In 1859 he removed to New York city to accept the chair of principles and practice of surgery and the post of surgeon-in-chief at the newly founded Long Island College Hospital. During 1861-65 he occupied the chair of military surgery, fractures and dislocations at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, that chair being the first of its kind in the world. Meantime, during the civil war, he served as surgeon of the 31st New York infantry, which he accompanied to the front, being made brigadier surgeon after the battle of Bull Run, and later U. S. medical director. He organized the U. S. General Hospital, New York city, in 1862, and in February 1863, was made medical inspector, U. S. army, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He resigned his military connections in September, 1863, and resumed his private practice and instruction. The subject of the principles of surgery being added to his chair in 1865, he continued lectures in both departments until 1868, and from then until 1875 was professor of the practice of surgery. Dr. Hamilton was visiting surgeon to Bellevue Hospital (1861-82) and consulting surgeon (1884-86); he was also consulting surgeon to the Institution for Ruptured and Crippled Children, St. Elizabeth's and other city hospitals and dispensaries. He was a member of the New York State Medical Society (president in 1855); of the New York Pathological Society (president in 1866); of the Medico-Legal Society (president in 1875-76); of the American Academy of Medicine (president in 1878); and of the New York Society of Medical Jurisprudence (president in 1878 and 1885), and an honorary member and officer of various other professional and learned bodies. Throughout his career he was recognized as one of the most skilled surgeons of the metropolis. He originated a safe method of cutting the sternal portion of the sternocleido-mastoid; was the first to operate for simple talipes where there is no disease of the joint; was the first to excise the central portion of the thyroid gland; originated the now accepted theories in relation to resection in compound dislocations of the long bones; was one of the earliest to operate for closing old ulcers by the transplantation of new skin; was the first to use gutta-percha for interdental splints; was largely instrumental in introducing gutta-percha splints for support of irregular joint surfaces, and devoted considerable attention to plastic surgery, having performed rhinoplasty more than twenty times. Among his most valuable inventions and contrivances are: a bone drill, appliances for treating fracture of the jaw and of the long bones, an improved Nelaton probe, a modified Liston artery forceps, an improved Owen tonsillotome, a serrated giant bone-cutter and other instruments equally valuable. His method of manipulating the body in asphyxia from drowning and his system of "keys" and "guides" for securing precision in am-



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He died of pulmonary difficulties, August 11th, 1886, in New York City, leaving one married daughter.



1830

FRANK HASTINGS HAMILTON

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The N. C. of A. B., Vol. IX, Page 358.



## CLASS OF 1830

### FRANK HASTINGS HAMILTON

Frank Hastings Hamilton was the second son of Calvin and Lucinda Hamilton, born September 10, 1813, in the hamlet of Wilmington, Windham County, Vermont. He came from ordinary people, his father being a farmer and owning a line of stages which ran between Bennington and Brattleboro, across the mountains.

In 1816 his parents moved to Schenectady, N. Y., where he studied at the Lancasterian School and "The Academy;" in July, 1827, he entered the sophomore class of Union College, and graduated A. B. from this institution. He then studied under Dr. John G. Morgan, of Auburn. During this period he kept bright his anatomical knowledge by painting in oil nearly every part of the human form. A full course of lectures at the Fairfield College of Physicians and Surgeons, in 1831, a license from the Cayuga County Medical Censors, and a formal graduation in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1835, gave him the needed authority for his life work.

"About this time," says the late Dr. Samuel W. Francis, "young Hamilton was appointed demonstrator of anatomy, made all the dissections, lectured to attentive students, and subsequently, when Dr. Morgan was called to the professor's chair at Geneva Medical College, in accordance with the wishes of those around him he delivered a full course of lectures on anatomy and surgery. He continued to lecture until the year 1838. On January 23, 1839, he assumed the chair of surgery in the Western College of Physicians and Surgeons, and then again, August 10, 1840, took a corresponding position in the Geneva Medical College. Here he remained for nearly four years, when, his ambition once more getting the better of him, he gave up his chair and went to Buffalo to resume practice as a surgeon. In 1843 and 1844 a visit to Great Britain and the Continent, extending over a period of seven months, supplied materials for a diary, which soon after appeared in the Buffalo Medical Journal.

In Buffalo Dr. Hamilton met Dr. Austin Flint, Sr., and the two became great friends. In 1864 they, together with Dr. James Platt White, also of Buffalo, added to the University of Buffalo a medical department, which rapidly became one of the features of the institution. Dr. Hamilton became its professor of surgery. For twelve years, from 1846 to November 28, 1858, he retained his position in the University, and then moved to Brooklyn. Hardly had he got fairly settled in his new home, and become the first professor of surgery that the Long Island College Hospital ever had, when he entered the army as a volunteer regimental surgeon, being assigned to the thirty-first New York Infantry. On February 9, 1863, he was appointed, by the president and senate, medical inspector of the United States Army, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. After two years and four months of active service he resigned his commission and returned to New York on September 10, 1863.



In April, 1861, he became professor of military surgery, fractures and dislocations, and professor of clinical surgery in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. He remained in these positions until May, 1868, when, upon the resignation of Dr. James R. Wood, he was made professor of the principles of and practice of surgery and surgical pathology and continued in this capacity until March 15, 1875, when he resigned.

His writings include:

"Life and Character of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck." (Union 1807)  
Published by order of the Senate of New York State, 1856;  
"Compound Fractures of Long Bones," 1857;  
"Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations," 1860; 2nd Ed. 1862;  
"Treatise on Military Surgery and Hygiene," First Edition, 1862.  
Second Edition, 1865.

Many articles of his also appeared, at various times, in the Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal. "A Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Surgery" was first published in 1872, a third edition of which was issued a few weeks before his death. "Surgical Memoirs of the War of the Rebellion," edited by him, was published in 1871, under the direction of the United States Sanitary Commission.

Skin-grafting was probably first suggested by Hamilton, then of Buffalo, in 1847. In 1854 he reported a case in which he had successfully grafted a large raw surface caused by a heavy stone falling on a man's leg.

As an inventor and contributor to the armamentarium chirurgicum, he dispensed with the useless and clumsy for the practical and efficacious. He rendered more precise the methods of amputation through the joints by a resort to so-called "keys" and "guides."

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His conduct as consultant in the case of the lamented Pres. Garfield, at whose bedside he was a conspicuous figure, and his candor in joining in the publication of the true causes of the embarrassments in treatment, as revealed by the necropsy, have passed into the noted annals of surgery.

Dr. Hamilton was twice married. His first wife was Mrs. Mary Virginia McMurran, a daughter of Isaac Van Arsdale, a planter, living near Sherpherdstown, Virginia. She died on April 8, 1838 leaving one son, Theodore B. He married a second time on September 1, 1840, his bride being Mary Gertrude Hart, daughter of Judge Orris Hart, of Oswego, New York. By his second, who died in July, 1885, Dr. Hamilton had three children. His valuable library was purchased by Dr. J. B. Hamilton of the United States Marine Hospital Service, and his unique collection of surgical specimens was bequeathed to the Army Medical Museum in Washington. He died in full possession of his faculties at his home in New York, of fibrous phthisis, on August 11, 1886, after protracted suffering.



CLASS OF 1830--FRANK HASTINGS HAMILTON--3

Abridged from a biography in Medical and Surgical Rep.,  
Philadelphia, 1864-65, vol. xii

FROM      American Medical Biographies  
Howard A. Kelly and Walter L. Burrage  
The Norman, Remington Company      Baltimore      1920



1830

Recd. March 29 / 1855

To *Frank Huntington*, *Alumnus* of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1830  
(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best :)

SIR,—

It is the aim of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the ready aid which they shall impart. This circular will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known, (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow:—some of the questions, indeed, it may not be possible to answer with certainty; others not at all: still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their fewness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned:—Obituary Notices; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, Funeral Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations, Business Cards and Advertisements; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c.; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Alcove of the College Library, to be set apart for "Graduates' Works."

He also requests that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time:—especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, Librarian.

UNION COLLEGE,  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y. }

## SPECIMENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Glidden Brown was born in Quinipick, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderbergh High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls; was admitted to the bar in 1821; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoesen, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832-5; State Senator 1836-8; Member of Congress 1839-41; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842-6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818-20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marbletown, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Haselton, Conn., 1825-30; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831-40; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the "Communicant's Companion." He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Benton, N. Y.; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College at High Holme School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Suncook, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Potecar, of Camerville; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhine, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813-15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830-5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the "Functions of the Brain," and on "Gunshot Wounds."

- N. B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and authentic as possible; but when doubtful let them be marked thus (?) 2. When the person is deceased let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge; if he have but one fact, let that be sent.  
3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.  
4. In case this sheet be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the same size, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one inch for binding.  
5. In cases where no answers to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always authentic.

UCSLA1830hamilton-f.0014



# INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOREGOING SKETCHES.

- I. Name. *Frank Hastings Hamilton*  
[Let this be written plainly and the middle names in full.]
- II. Names of both Parents; thus:— *Calvin H. and Lucinda (Hastings) Hamilton*  
[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]
- III. Birth Place. *Wilmington, Vermont* Birth Day and Year. *Sept. 10-1813*
- IV. Various residences and dates; thus:—  
[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New-York City, 1830-54.]  
*Wilmington Vermont 1813 - Schenectady 1817 - Auburn 1830 - Buffalo 1845 -*
- V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:— *Schenectady acad*  
[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1815-17.]  
*Emy, Ichabod Spencer S. S.*
- VI. At what College he graduated, and when. *Union College. Aug 1830*
- VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—  
[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1847-48, or Merchant's Clerk, New-York City, 1849-51.]  
*Commenced the study of a profession immediately*
- VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:—  
[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y., with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.]  
*Medicine at Auburn, N. Y., with John George Morgan Surgeon to the Auburn State Prison. In 1831 attended medical lectures at Fairport Med. Col. Herkimer Co., N. Y. - and graduated in Medicine at the "University of Pennsylvania" Philadelphia, in 1835*
- IX. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:—  
[Epis., Somerville, N. J., 1827-30; Pres., Albany, N. Y., 1830-5; New-York City, 1835-54.]  
*Auburn N. Y. 1835 - Buffalo N. Y. 1845 -*
- X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—  
[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Genesee, N. Y., 1835-54; or Manufacturer, Schoharie, N. Y., 1847-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.]

## XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:—

[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1839-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]  
1839 chosen by the Regents of the University Prof. of Surgery in the College of Surgery for the Western District of the State of New-York. 1840 chosen to the chair of Surgery in the Geneva Medical College. 1846 chosen to the same chair in the University of Buffalo, & has remained to the present time. Surgeon to the Buffalo Hospital, from 1849 to the present time.  
1855 elected President of the New-York State Medical Society

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited. "Reply to Phrenology" monograph on "Strabismus" — "European Tour" — "Fracture Tables" — "Cholera & its cause" — "Ekoplasty" — "New views in relation to provisional callus" — "New mode of treatment in cases of delayed union of a fractured humerus" — "Prize essay on Endemic Fevers of the Western Country" — "Report on dislocations" — "Fracture of the skull in infants" — Translation of Amussat on the use of water in surgery.  
With numerous, introductions, valedictories, medical & surgical reports, reviews and other contributions to medical journals.

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.  
*Phredon B. Hamilton Esq - 405 27 - Miltz Buildings - Broadway - N. Y -*

## XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:—

[M. D., from Albany Medical College 1845; or L. L. D., Amherst College, 1850, &c.]

*M. D. from University of Pennsylvania*

## XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him? — *no* —

[One or two copies, together with his autograph, are solicited for College Library.]

## XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.

[Send any printed notice, biographical sketch, funeral sermon, &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions, in which case add an additional sheet.]



XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:—

XII. The literary or scientific works he has written or edited.

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:—

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him?

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.

XIX. List of such graduates as may not be widely known; their residences, professions, dates of deaths, &c.; the name and residence, also, of some near friend of the deceased, that further information may be sought for; thus:—

[John Orton Smith, Banker, Chicopee, Mass., died 1848. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]



Frank Hastings Hamilton A.B. 1830

FRANK H. HAMILTON '30.



1830  
Frank Hastings Hamilton F. B.